

Highlights In This Report

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Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during October totaled 1.5 million pounds, up 15 percent from September but 12 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, up 200 head from September but 400 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 889 pounds, up 53 pounds from the previous month and 7 pounds above October 2002. Total live weight, at 1.4 million pounds, was 24 percent above the previous month but 18 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during October totaled 1,200 head, up 200 head from September and 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 479 pounds, down 3 pounds from September and 15 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 559,000 pounds was up 11 percent from September but 1 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 2,100 head, up 400 head from the previous month but 300 head below October 2002. Average live weight was 195 pounds, down 7 pounds from September and 2 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 401,000 pounds, 15 percent above September but 13 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during October was 200 head, up 100 head from September and the previous year. Live weight averaged 79 pounds, up 6 pounds from the previous month but 13 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.15 billion pounds in October, down 5 percent from the 4.38 billion pounds produced in October 2002.

October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, down 8 percent from October 2002. The average live weight, at 1,231 pounds, was down 39 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 16.4 million pounds, 13 percent below October a year ago and a monthly record low. Calf slaughter totaled 87,500 head, down 13 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was the same as last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.91 billion pounds, a monthly record high, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.64 million head, 3 percent above October 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 267 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 265,500 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2003 commercial red meat production was 39.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year; veal was down 2 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	September	October		January-October		October		January-October	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.3	1.9	1.5	14.4	12.5	3,266.6	3,002.6	30,101.7	30,359.7
Calves	1.0	1.1	1.2	8.0	8.5	100.9	87.5	856.3	826.2
Hogs	1.7	2.4	2.1	21.6	19.4	9,403.6	9,638.7	82,951.1	82,846.7
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.0	1.6	300.6	265.5	2,736.5	2,475.9
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	1,097	1,659	1,362	12,488	10,986	4,148,453	3,695,836	37,573,793	37,328,698
Calves	502	566	559	3,974	4,258	31,033	26,973	267,572	261,510
Hogs	350	463	401	4,579	4,023	2,482,798	2,575,859	21,929,438	22,002,396
Sheep & Lambs	8	10	12	185	146	39,617	35,706	364,674	329,516
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	836	882	889	867	879	1,270	1,231	1,248	1,230
Calves	482	494	479	497	501	308	308	313	317
Hogs	202	197	195	212	207	264	267	264	266
Sheep & Lambs	73	92	79	93	91	132	135	133	133
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	1.3	1.7	1.5	13.9	12.6	4,382.1	4,154.0	39,402.1	39,134.2

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	October 2002	July 2003	October 2003	October 2002	July 2003	October 2003
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
Hired Workers (All)	38	25	31	1,211	1,263	1,197
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	271	320	306
Hired Farm Workers	38	25	31	940	943	891
150 Days or More	29	18	20	685	680	626
149 Days or Less	9	7	11	255	263	265
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	38.9	38.8	37.0	40.4	39.8	40.2
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$7.77	\$7.70	\$7.48	\$8.95	\$8.88	\$9.05
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$7.12	\$7.13	\$7.01	\$8.34	\$8.17	\$8.42
Livestock	\$7.72	\$8.03	\$7.15	\$8.42	\$8.57	\$8.64

¹Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

--- Data not published.

October Farm Labor- 5 Year History

October	Delta States ¹		United States	
	Workers on Farms ^{2/3}	Farm Wage Rates ⁴	Workers on Farms ^{2/3}	Farm Wage Rates ⁴
	Hired (000)	\$/Hr All Hired Workers	Hired (000)	\$/Hr All Hired Workers
2003	31	\$7.48	891	\$9.05
2002	38	\$7.77	940	\$8.95
2001	43	\$7.13	991	\$8.59
2000	42	\$7.06	952	\$8.29
1999	41	\$6.59	989	\$7.83

¹LA, AL, MS.

²Includes all persons doing farm work for pay during the survey week.

³Excludes agricultural service workers.

⁴Includes field, livestock, supervisors, and other workers doing work for pay during the survey week.

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta States: Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Delta States had 31,000 hired workers on farms and ranches the week of October 12-18, 2003. This is 7,000 fewer hired workers than October of last year, but 6,000 more than July 2003. Of the 31,000 hired workers, workers that work 150 days or more a year account for 65 percent of the total, and workers that work 149 days or less account for the remaining 35 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta States for all hired farm workers was \$7.48 per hour compared to \$7.77 per hour in October 2002. Delta States hired farm workers averaged \$1.57 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level. Livestock workers earned \$7.15 per hour compared to \$7.72 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning 11 cents per hour less this October, at \$7.01, than last October.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 37.0 hours per week, was 3.2 hours fewer per week than the current U.S. average of 40.2 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1.20 million hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 891,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: October 2003

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2002	October 2003	November 2003 ¹	November 2002	October 2003	November 2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.46	7.03	7.64	5.46	6.61	7.37
Rice, per cwt	3.95	7.27	7.38	3.70	6.44	6.49
Upland Cotton, per pound	.417	.620	2/ .621	.430	.680	2/ .641
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.20	84.40	80.70
Beef Cattle, per cwt	45.20	59.60	58.50	67.30	92.00	93.20
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	69.40	86.40	86.00	71.90	97.80	99.70
Cows, per cwt	31.60	43.80	43.00	33.00	44.90	46.70
Calves, per cwt	86.30	101.00	102.00	91.90	113.00	112.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.390	.370	.370
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.641	.841	1.030
Milk, all, per cwt ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.40	15.00	14.90

¹Mid-month;

²Based on sales during the first half of the month;

³Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

Prices Received Index Up 4 Points

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 4 points above the October index. Both the Livestock and Products Index and the All Crops Index were higher in November. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of all milk, cotton, cattle and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers and potatoes.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points from November 2002. The Food Commodities Index increased 5 points above last month to 121, and is 25 points above November 2002. This index value is the highest since records began in 1975.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from October but 5 points above November 2002. Lower prices in November for feeder cattle, hay and forages, gasoline and feeder pigs are offset by higher prices for feed grains, feed concentrates, feed supplements and nitrogen fertilizers.

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